



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON 25

M
951

FEB 23 1955

B-122515

Mr. Fred L. Preu
Director, Audit Division
Office of the Controller
Foreign Operations Administration

Dear Mr. Preu:

Reference is made to your letter of January 3, 1955, file
AUD:VEB:DBH, forwarding a letter from Mr. Stanley S. Nowak,
Authorized Certifying Officer, United States Operations Mission
to the Philippines, requesting a decision relative to the print-
ing of invitation cards for the use of the Mission Director.

Herewith, as requested, is a copy of our decision of today
to the certifying officer.

Very truly yours,

FRANK D. WEITZEL

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

057 884/081761

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON 25

FEB 23 1955

952

B-122515

Mr. Stanley S. Nowak
Authorized Certifying Officer
United States Operations Mission to the Philippines
Foreign Operations Administration
Manila, Republic of the Philippines

Dear Mr. Nowak:

Reference is made to your letter of November 5, 1954, transmitting two vouchers in favor of the Toledo and Bernardo Printing Co., 2359 M. Colayco St., Pasay City, Philippine Islands, in the amount of 22 pesos (equivalent to \$11.00) each, representing the purchase price of printed invitation cards and envelopes for use by the Mission Director in connection with official social functions of the United States Operations Mission to the Philippines. An administrative memorandum dated October 22, 1954, which is enclosed with your letter, states that the majority of people attending the Director's official functions are important personages whom it would be improper to invite by telephone and that, if printed forms were not used, the invitations would have to be made by letter, which would involve much greater expense. The memorandum also points out that the public funds sought to be charged are the Director's representation allowance funds.

You call attention to a decision of this Office, 12 Comp. Gen. 565, holding that the purchase of calling cards constitutes a personal, not an official, expense and that appropriations for administrative expenses are not generally available therefor. Also, you refer to Title 44, United States Code, Section 219, which provides that "No head of any Executive Department, or of any bureau, branch, or office of the Government shall cause to be printed * * * any document or matter except that which is authorized by law and necessary to the public business." In view of such decision and provision of law, your letter, in effect, requests the decision of this Office as to whether the appropriated moneys here involved—the representation allowance funds of the Foreign Operations Administration—may be used to pay for the involved printed invitation cards and envelopes.

Representation allowances originally were authorized to officers and employees of the State Department to enable them properly to represent the United States abroad. 22 U.S.C. 1131. The allowances are

R-122515

controlled by Standardized Regulations (Government Civilians, Foreign Areas) issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Executive Order No. 10011 of October 22, 1948. Such allowances were made applicable to F. O. A. overseas officers and employees by section 527(c)(1), Title V, of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, 68 Stat. 857, and section 102 of the Mutual Security Appropriation Act, 1955, 68 Stat. 1221. Section 271 of the regulations provides in part as follows:

"271 Allowable Expenditures

"Representation allowances are provided for employees in order that there may be paid on their behalf or reimbursed to them the cost of items of the following character * * *;

"a. Entertainment that is normally offered by the principal and higher ranking officers of the Foreign Service at posts abroad on such occasions as Independence Day or Washington's Birthday and on various other occasions such as visits of noted personages or of public vessels or aircraft;

"b. Entertainment that is undertaken by any civilian employees of the United States Government for the purpose of establishing and maintaining those individual personal relationships which are necessary to the performance of their official duties * * *."

It thus appears representation allowance funds are available for expenses incurred in connection with official entertainment. Also, the cost of the printed invitation cards and envelopes in the circumstances set forth in the letters properly appears to be an entertainment expense within the purview of the regulations.

Section 412 (c), Title IV, of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, 68 Stat. 846 provides in part, as follows:

"(c) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the President for the fiscal year 1955 not to exceed \$34,700,000 for all necessary administrative expenses incident to carrying out the provisions of this Act * * * including expenses for compensation, allowances and travel of personnel * * * and, without regard to the provisions of any other law, for printing and binding * * *." (Underscoring supplied.)

B-122515

The Mutual Security Appropriation Act, 1955, 68 Stat. 1221, appropriated funds to carry out section 411 of the Mutual Security Act, 1949, and the appropriation shown on the voucher was established by transfer from the funds so appropriated. Accordingly, the appropriation involved is available for printing and binding expenses without regard to Title 44, United States Code, Section 219.

The said funds thus appear to be available for expenses of official entertainment and the printing costs to be incident thereto. Also, the funds are available without regard to any other law for printing and binding. Accordingly, the vouchers are returned herewith and may be certified for payment if otherwise correct.

Very truly yours,

FRANK H. WEITZEL

Assistant Comptroller General
of the United States

Inclosures

FILED